

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)  
MINUTES  
FOR  
THURSDAY, November 21, 2013 MEETING**

*Members Present:* Chairman Mike Lawlor, *Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM*; Joette Katz, *Commissioner, Department of Children and Families*; Bill Carbone, *Executive Director of Court Support Services, Judicial Branch*; Pat Rehmer, *Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*, Dennis Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor*; Guy Vallaro, Ph.D., *Director of Scientific Services, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Garvin Ambrose, *State Victim Advocate*; Erika Tindill, *Chairwoman, Board of Pardons and Paroles*; James Dzurenda, *Interim Commissioner, Department of Corrections*, Sean Thakkar, *Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information Systems*, Karen Jarmoc, *Executive Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence*; Raymond Singleton, *Deputy Commissioner Department of Social Services*; Chief James L. Kenny, *Vernon Police Department*.

**I. Welcome and Policy Update**

Chairman Lawlor convened the meeting at 9:21 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Chairman Lawlor announced that CT-N is taping the meeting. He also announced the change in the date of the December meeting due to the holiday. He indicated that Bill Carbone and CSSD will present at the next meeting with an update on all of the progress that has been made over the years and encouraged members to attend. Chairman Lawlor updated members on the prison trend and what typically takes place this time of year. The prison population is down by almost 300 inmates compared to the number at the October meeting. He indicated that this is a very predictable and typical change. Generally this time of year, the prison population takes a downward trend. This trend should continue until the beginning of the New Year. Chairman Lawlor discussed the change from what occurred at the beginning of the year. He stated that this is good news for planning purposes. Chairman Lawlor also recommended members review the Criminal Justice Policy Planning Divisions Monthly Indicator Report prepared by Ivan Kuzyk.

*Monthly Indicator Report:*

[http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport\\_nov\\_2013.pdf.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_nov_2013.pdf.pdf)

**II. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and stated what agency they represented

**III. Approval of Minutes from October 31, 2013**

Minutes were approved.

**IV. Commission Correspondence**

There was no commission correspondence.

#### **V. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

#### **VI. Update by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) on Grant Received to Provide Crisis Intervention Training for Young Adults**

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Commissioner Pat Rehmer discussed the details of a grant (approximately \$900,000) recently received from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) with the focus of the grant on early diversionary opportunities for young adults and the role of the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team). Commissioner Rehmer highlighted Chairman Lawlor's letter of support and his suggestion that CJPAC could be the oversight committee for the grant. Commissioner Rehmer indicated she would provide an update to the group on how things are progressing and what DMHAS is seeing as they move through the implementation of the grant.

Update can also be viewed at: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=9641>

#### **VII. Agency Updates**

Members went around the group and updated the group on their agency and the latest work being done. Agency updates can also be viewed at: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=9641>

**Guy Vallaro, Ph.D., Director of Scientific Services, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection** – Provided the group with an update to his presentation at October's CJPAC meeting and follow-up answers to Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane's questions during the October meeting. Dr. Vallaro also discussed Rapid DNA testing and highlighted the positive outcomes as a result of the testing. He also discussed a possible new project that would deal with casework and a database which is expected to be rolled out early next year.

**Sean Thakkar, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Information Systems** – Updated the group on the work being done with their vendor, Xerox, to align their project schedules. CJIS is hoping to have a new contract with Xerox within the next 30-45 days.

**Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services** – Discussed the ongoing work with CSSD and DOC to prepare for the state's compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) not only in CT but also around the country. Also discussed that one of the provisions is to ensure access to sexual assault victim advocates and stated ongoing efforts with CSSD and DOC to find opportunities for cross training.

**James Dzurenda, Interim Commissioner, Department of Correction** – Currently has 93 cadets in the training academy who will be graduating on January 4, 2014. Another academy class is scheduled for December 13, 2013, with a graduation date to be determined. The

Commissioner stated that the DOC is very active in researching the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how it will impact the DOC, Medicaid qualifiers, and the potential savings the ACA will have on the agency budget.

**Garvin Ambrose, State Victim Advocate** – Discussed the new staff member to the Office of Victim Advocate, Laura Stefon. Highlighted Laura’s new role within the OVA and how her role will interface with other agencies and the community.

**Raymond Singleton, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services** – Provided an update on the going effort with the DOC to ensure that people who are leaving prison are connecting with Medicaid and health services. The agency has also started to look at inmates who are incarcerated for child support reasons and how they can connect them with employment opportunities upon release.

**Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence** – Discussed the Violence Against Women Stop grant which CCADV received a little over a year ago. The grant was initiated by CCADV’s former executive director. Karen also discussed the great progress that has been made on the grant. Also highlighted the collaboration between the DOC and the BOPP the work that is currently underway when an offender, with a history of domestic violence, is released and the notification to the victim of the release. Also discussed work that is being done with the victim around safety planning.

**Pat Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** – Provided an update on 60 West, the nursing home in Rocky Hill. The current population is 33, with 3 pending from the DOC and 2 from the DMHAS. Stated they have been able to successfully move 17 patients to the nursing home and positive results of the nursing home. Commissioner Rehmer encouraged members to tour the facility.

**Bill Carbone, Executive Director of Court Support Services, Judicial Branch**- Updated members on the successful collaboration with the DSS, which is nearing a conclusion. The project was aimed at those coming out of prison onto a probation sentence and those going directly onto probation sentence and the lack of access to entitlement programs. Also discussed a new program which will be a team approach and begin in January in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury. Provided an update on the going research efforts internally and with the Department of Justice around the youthful offender population.

**Dennis Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor** – DOL is generating a list of what other agencies are doing on workforce development and job training. Deputy Commissioner Murphy thanked the DOC and its staff in assisting in pulling the information together. He also indicated the work that is underway with Capitol Workforce Partners to cobble together the age group of 18-35 in ex-offender iBest model and job training initiatives.

**Joette Katz, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families** – Announced National Adoption Day tomorrow (11/22/13). Discussed that the DCF in conjunction with the Judicial Branch and the help of the legislature to move the function of adoption from probate court to

superior court. As a consequence, the DCF is now moving adoption within 30 days of termination of parental rights as opposed to a year or longer. Discussed the Pueblo Unit, which DCF is taking over as one of the units at Solnit Hospital and it's going to be converted into a unit strictly for girls. The intent is to provide a family centered gender response of trauma informed therapeutic setting for girls and women aged 13-20 who have been adjudicated a delinquent in order to address a significant gap in continuum care of services. The Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) will manage the unit.

**Erika Tindill, Chairwoman, Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP)** – Discussed the last meeting of the Connecticut Reentry Roundtable Collaborative which was held in Waterbury. One of the concerns discussed at the meeting was ex-offenders being released in the Greater Waterbury Community not having any identification. BOPP is putting together a working group and will reach out to DOC to see what can specifically be done in the Waterbury area. BOPP will look at ways their agency can assist DOC with the progress of identification for ex-offenders.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Behavioral Health Subcommittee** – Dr. Norko discussed the transition that is taking place with the recent retirement of Dan Bannish. Dr. Craig Burns of DOC is now the medical director and will start to attend the Behavioral Health Subcommittee meetings. The next meeting will be held January 2, 2014.

**PJOC** - Provided members with an update on DOC inmate count. As of 11/21 at 7:00 a.m., there were 16,926 offenders incarcerated. The following is breakdown of the 16,926: 4,125 supervised by DOC in the community, 12,630 sentenced, 4,316 accused. Interim Commissioner Dzurenda also announced that at the last PJOC meeting discussions were taking place regarding additional alternative programs that could be examined.

**Batterer Intervention Programming and Standards Subcommittee** – Chairwoman Jarmoc stated that the subcommittee is meeting very actively and progress has been made. She indicated the subcommittee would like to make a more formal presentation in January.

**Victim Issues Subcommittee** – Chairwoman Cordes announced the reactivation of the subcommittee. They had their organizational meeting and intend to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

### **VIII. Other Business**

There was no other business

### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m. The next CJPAC meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1C.

